

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

27 February 1987

Mr. Wm. Everett Medling  
Smith, Hinchman and Grylls Associates, Inc.  
455 West Fort Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Ev:

As I read your letter of 20 February regarding the wall color in the New Headquarters Building (NHB), it was clear to me that you have rather strong feelings on the matter. Therefore, I have personally been involved in our reconsideration of the issue. In this regard, first let me assure you that the decision to switch to Vienna Cream was not done in a cavalier manner. Nor was there a conscious decision not to involve SH&G. Rather, we felt at the time that both the original color and the Vienna Cream would be suitable for use in the NHB. Therefore, we accommodated a request from the Facilities Management Division, who will maintain the NHB, to switch to Vienna Cream, the standard in the Original Headquarters Building (OHB). In hindsight, I believe we should have consulted SH&G prior to making that decision.

Now, before I continue to discuss the NHB wall color issue, please allow me to disagree with part of subparagraph 2 on page two of your memorandum of 20 February. You indicate that "SH&G was simply advised on the remaining changed items." The remaining items include the door, door frame, and wall base colors in the computer area (item d). As you are aware, the change was occasioned by the delivery of the wrong color raised floor tile which was not discovered until a significant amount of the tile had been installed. In the interest of minimizing additional delays in completion of the NHB, we wished to accept the tile if we could do so without having a mismatch with the surrounding color scheme. In this regard, you may have forgotten that Scott J. and I discussed this issue with you in my office. As I recall, we solicited your views regarding the door, door frames, and wall base colors; and you had no objection to our suggested course of action.

Now, let's return to main issue, the NHB wall color. I appreciate your presentation of the chronology of events relating to colors in the NHB and your strong opinion that we have not selected the best color. In this regard, we respect SH&G's professional opinion and concern for providing an aesthetically pleasing environment for our employees, and do not want you to be reticent about expressing your thoughts. I would expect no less from an A&E firm. Having said that, we will not always agree with you!

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I have discussed the wall color issue with all concerned here and must tell you that I did not obtain unanimity (particularly with respect to your charge that the Vienna Cream color in use in the OHB is ". . .too dirty. . .") Nonetheless, I am persuaded that we should revert to the original wall color, Glidden 70-64. Arguments to the contrary did not outweigh those put forth in your memorandum of 20 February. We will so inform Mr. Carlucci.

Again, thank you for your interest in giving us a quality building.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, New Building  
Project Office

cc: GSA Project Manager

OL/NBPO [Redacted] :27Feb87

Orig - Adse

- 1 - OL/NBPO Subject
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